The time stamps correlate to the YouTube KSDE Livemedia channel where all Board meetings are archived.

Kansas State Board of Education
Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Call to Order

Chair Cathy Hopkins called the meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education to order at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 11, 2025, in the boardroom of the Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson St., Topeka, Kansas.

Roll Call

The following Board members were present:
Mrs. Betty Arnold
Mrs. Michelle Dombrosky
Mrs. Melanie Haas
Mr. Dennis Hershberger
Mrs. Cathy Hopkins, Chair
Dr. Beryl New
Mrs. Connie O'Brien
Mrs. Debby Potter
Mr. Jim Porter
Mr. Danny Zeck, Vice Chair
The board attorney, Mr. Mark Ferguson and Commissioner Dr. Randy Watson were in attendance at the board table.

Seven students from Chase Middle School, North Topeka, attended with their teacher Mrs. Havens and principal Mrs. Spalding. They brought portraits they had drawn of each Board member and presented them. Decorating the boardroom were many drawings by art students around Topeka, brought and set up by Chris Reynolds, Fine Arts Coordinator at Topeka District 501.

Approval of the Agenda

Chair Hopkins asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda for both Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs. Dombrosky removed k, l, and m for a separate vote. Mrs. Potter requested discussion on l and m. Chair Hopkins noted there would be a time later in the day when these items would have a discussion (l/m) and separate vote (k/l, and m).

Agenda 09:51

Mrs. Haas moved to approve the agenda for Tuesday and Wednesday as amended. Mr. Zeck seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Motion

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Consent motion 11:51

Dr. New moved to approve the items on the consent agenda. Mr. Zeck seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Approval of the January 14 & 15, 2025 minutes

Minutes motion out of order 1:02:17

Mrs. Haas moved to accept the minutes of January 14 & 15, 2025. Mrs. Potter seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Commissioner's Report

Report 13:00

There are schools around the state that are doing excellent work. Throughout Kansas the daily work to improve education and help students reach their potential is often invisible. As Commissioner, Dr. Watson is honored to see this work on his visits to schools, as he saw the previous day in Parsons. Parsons has the highest per capita rate of foster care population in Kansas. The teachers and staff in Parsons are making great strides in raising graduation rates over 90%, lowering chronic absenteeism, raising reading, math and science levels and encouraging post-secondary education for a population of students that face many obstacles. This work is quiet, and often not noticed, but Dr. Watson raised up Parsons and many other districts that are working tirelessly to help each child succeed. He noted that on his visit there were news crews present, but they should be present every day to observe the efforts of these passionate teachers, staff and families.

There is a teacher, bus driver, and paraeducator shortage. There are many efforts, especially through licensure, to encourage new paths to teaching, such as the apprenticeship program. Shane Carter, Director of Teacher Licensure, has made great progress in opening doors to talented people who want to teach, and in shortening the time it takes to obtain a license.

Dr. Watson addressed the PowerSchool data breech that happened last month. No systems or data maintained by the Kansas State Department of Education were impacted by the reported breech. All districts had to immediately change their log-in information, such as passwords and or pin numbers for any online systems. Districts were advised to have multi-factor authentications for all logins, and passwords need to be complex, a minimum of 12 characters in length with different types of characters and changed at least every 180 days.

State assessments are being reassessed. Kansas has both a federal and state requirement to give assessments in 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 10th grade. The statues say students must be tested once in high school, and Kansas has chosen the 10th grade. High school is the time to prepare students to enter the larger world. Can

the high school assessment be useful for the student in a different way? For instance, a military bound student will have to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), and the acceptance scores are different for various arms of the military. If a student wants to go to college, then the American College Testing (ACT) is a test they will need to take in order to be admitted. For students that want to learn a skilled trade, there is a test called the ACT WorkKeys. Students could take these tests multiple times and the best score would be used. This would take federal permission, because at present all students need to take the same test. This all is just in the first stages of what will be a long process with the Board as this policy is developed.

Dr. Watson announced that Dr. Ben Proctor, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Learning Services, will be returning to his previous job as Superintendent of Hesston at the end of June. Dr. Proctor has been a vital part of the development of the school improvement/accreditation system called KESA. The search for Ben's successor will start and hopefully in March the Board will review and approve a new Deputy Commissioner.

Citizen's Forum

Forum 48:00

Representative Bill Riley, Wellington, spoke in favor of a bill currently in the legislature which would allow schools to hire a certified chaplain. This is a professional category and has requirements. Chaplains are already welcome in the schools, but the local school boards need to have the permission to hire them for the individual schools, under the supervision of the district superintendent.

Representative Steve Hueber, Valley Center, spoke about the need to increase computer science classes for Kansas students. Kansas has moved from the 47th position and have now dropped to 49th in training for computer science. There has been work done on the initiative to create more courses in schools. He would ask that the Board focus on this challenge and have presentations in future.

Raewyn Honeycutt, a parent, Topeka, spoke about Free Application for Federal Scholarship Aid (FAFSA). She is concerned that the FAFSA forms gather too much data from students and families. The FAFSA assumes that all students want to go to college. FAFSA provides access not only grants but also loans; school loans are difficult for the students to pay back. Having the FAFSA completion as a graduation requirement is not helpful for students or family. Mrs. Honeycutt believes this data is not safe.

Lonny Honeycutt, parent, Topeka, feels the Free Application for Federal Scholarship Aid is Orwellian, communist, Marxist, and gives too much control to the government. He challenged the Board to look at the outcomes of a decision to put FAFSA into the graduation requirements. Mr. Honeycott referenced the book 1984 which described

the dangers of totalitarianism, mass surveillance, and government control. He feels the Free Application for Federal Scholarship Aid is part of the government having too much surveillance and control.

Bill Pickard, board member, Phillips Learning Center in Wichita, thanked the Board for all they do, Specially he appreciated the Commissioner, Board Chair Hopkins, and Deputy Commissioner Proctor, for coming down to the learning center the previous week to work with them on the process for being placed on the official at-risk educational programs.

Chair Hopkins thanked the participants and closed the Citizen's Forum.

Act on Annual Review and update of At Risk Evidence Based Practices

At Risk
1:03:38

Dr. Proctor gave the annual review and went through the updated list of at risk programs for 2025. He reminded the Board that their responsibilities are, according the K.S.A. 72-5153, to identify, approve, and provide a list of at-risk educational programs that provide best practices and evidence-based instruction to students who are identified as eligible to receive at-risk programs and services beyond that of regular education.

The State Board is responsible to review and update the list as necessary, and the department shall publish a list of approved at-risk educational programs on the department's website. All expenditures from a district's at-risk fund must come from the approved list unless it is a provisional at-risk program.

Motion
1:11:00

Mr. Hershberger moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the Evidence-Based Programs and Practices list that includes programs and practices that have peer-reviewed evidence to support at risk students and may be used to provide students with additional educational opportunities, interventions, and services beyond regular education services. Mrs. Potter seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-1-1, with Mr. Zeck voting no and Mrs. Dombrosky present not voting.

Legislative Report and Update

Legislature
1:34:00

Dr. Harwood explained what the situation is at this point on the federal level and how it affects Kansas schools. There has been no congressional action on the federal level that impacts any part of K12 education in Kansas. There have been some executive actions that have caused questions. For the formula grants which are all congressional actions it appears that nothing is changing. In addition, the United State Department of Agrigulture (USDA) which funds child nutrition has assured schools that nothing is going to change. There are likely to be changes in discretionary grants, which has not happened, but it may. There are concerns about the US Department of Education

(USDE) being dismantled, but Dr. Harwood shared that the title services, child nutrition and special ed programs were present prior to the USDE being in existence. Removing the USDE would take an act of Congress. At this point KSDE is receiving payments and sending them to the districts as usual.

He reviewed the action taken by the House Appropriations Committee on the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) budget bill HB2007:

- Adopted Consensus Estimates – 2026 BASE $5,611
  - KSBE request – Adopt Consensus Estimates
- Add $30 million to SPED State aid using State Board formula
  - KSBE request - $82 million enhancement
- Safe and Secure Schools Grant stays at $5 million with 2024 proviso
  - KSBE request - $10 million enhancement
- Add $500,000 for state match of E-Rate infrastructure.
  - KSBE request - $1.0 million enhancement
- Add $184,500 for At-Risk Accountability Plan staff for KSDE
  - KSBE request - $626,500 enhancement
- Requires $320,000 from KSDE operating budget for a Virtual Reality Career Exploration Program Pilot.
  - KSBE request – No Request

- Update on other State Board Requests
  - Mentor Teacher Program – KSBE request $1.0 million enhancement
    - K-12 Budget added $700,000
    - Appropriation remains $1.3 million
  - CTE Transportation – KSBE request $517,662 enhancement
    - K-12 Budget added $300,000,
    - Appropriation remains $1.5 million
  - State School Board pay – KSBE request $170,000 enhancement
    - K-12 Budget added $170,000
    - No new appropriation
  - E-Rate Administration – KSBE request $95,920 from SGF
    - Transfer continues from KBOR
  - Professional Development – KSBE request $4.5 million enhancement
    - Appropriation remains $1.8 million
- Other requests for KSDE Budget
- Governor's Budget Request
  - Pay the student cost of Reduced Priced Meals - $5.5 million
    - K-12 Budget added $2 million
    - No new appropriation
  - Pay AP Test cost for low-income students - $500,000
    - No new appropriation

- Other Requests
    - Spark Wheel – Spark Wheel Request - $1.3 million
        - K-12 Budget added $1.3 million
        - No new appropriation
    - CPR and AED Training Kits – American Heart Assoc. Request - $250,000
        - K-12 Budget added $250,000
        - No new appropriation

Dr. Harwood reviewed bills that the State Board has offered testimony on, either directly in person, on zoom, with written testimony, or through himself and Gabrielle Hull, Legislative Coordinator at KSDE. The Board testified in opposition to HB2104 (standardized firearms programs Eddie Eagle), HB2136/SB87 (expanding student eligibility under the tax credit for low income students' scholarship program), SB25 (alternative calculation of graduation rates for virtual schools), SB48 (school district accreditation), SB49 (needs assessment requirements for school boards), SB75 (establishing education opportunity tax credit), and as proponents for HB2129 (transferring teachers from KPERS 3 to KPERS 2), HB2137 (private vendor for school bus cameras), and HB2194 (KPERS working after retirement exemption).

Receive ERC recommendations

ERC
2:17:00

Dr. Catherine Chmidling, Assistant Director, Teacher Licensure, offered the recommendations of the Evaluation Review Committee. First, she described the process high education programs must go through in order to receive accreditation for their teacher training programs.

The Standards for Higher Ed Teacher Training cover five areas:

1. Content and Pedagogical Knowledge
2. Clinical Partnerships and Practice
3. Candidate Quality, Recruitment, Selectivity
4. Program Impact
5. Provider Quality, Continuous Improvement, and Capacity

Fort Hays State University was recommended for approval through 2029, Pittsburg State University was recommended for approval through 2030, and Washburn University was recommended for approval through 2030, each in specific teaching training programs. The State Board will be asked to take action on these items in March 2025.

Public Hearing on Removing Free Application for Federal Scholarship Aid (FAFSA) from Graduation Requirements

Public Hearing
3:35:51

(background) On July 10, 2024, the Board acted to remove the FAFSA from the graduation

requirements:
"Mrs. Hopkins moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the submission of an amendment to K. A. R. 91-31-35 through the formal regulatory adoption process. striking the requirement as presented. Mrs. Dombrosky seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-3. Mr. McNiece, Mr. Porter, and Mrs. Arnold voted no. " - from the July 2024 approved minutes.
The process to change regulations requires a number of steps, and last month, January 2025, the Board held a public hearing on this proposed regulation change.

The public hearing was opened at 1:30 on February 11, 2025. Scott Gordon, KSDE General Counsel was present. Chair Hopkins invited anyone to speak. Each speaker was given five minutes to speak. There was only one speaker.

Nancy Moneymaker, DeSoto, citizen. Ms. Moneymaker spoke in favor of removing the FAFSA from graduation requirements. She believes the application requires too much private financial information to be shared with the Internal Revenue Services. This should be a student and family choice, but not a requirement. She stated in December, the Board discussed the form (FAFSA), and she remembered Mrs. Hopkins expressing the FAFSA was not a good thing for everyone to participate in. Ms. Moneymaker noted that that Dr. Watson felt this (the graduation requirements) needed to be passed, because if they sent it back it could take a year to be changed. She felt the Board was talked into passing it, as is, and they made it sound so easy to just red line out that passage. Ms. Moneymaker explained that now we are finding we need to have hearings and agenda items, so she would like for the Board to remember what they felt like in December about this item and vote accordingly. She related that her own family did not fill out any FAFSA forms, but her child received a four year scholarship without using the intrusive filling out of the form.

There being no other speakers, Chair Hopkins closed the hearing.

Virtual Tour of KITE The Kansas State Assessment Platform

KITE
3:38:15

Beth Fultz went over the presentations on assessments so far. Today is an actual tour of the student/family experience of the KITE platform.
Julie Ewing, Assistant Director for Assessments at KSDE
Jennifer Hamlet, Associate Director for Standards for KSDE

Julie Ewing explained there is an assessment coordinator for every district. Chelsey Paltry was introduced, who oversees all the state assessments. She works with the district coordinators and makes sure they all have the training needed, annual security & Ethics Training (for every district test coordinator) and KITE educator portal training. There is support throughout the year through webinars (third Tuesday of every month). It is hosted live with the KU staff and KSDE staff with Q and A.

Matt Copeland, Associate Director and Susan Martin, Director at Assessment Technology Solutions at the Assessment and Achievement Institute at the University of Kansas were introduced and gave an overview of KITE. Dr. Martin introduced KITE, KAP balanced assessment, mini tests, interim tests, cumulative assessments. There are portals for all parts of the KITE platform that parents can access.

Content portal: complete bank for all the information.
Kite Educator portal: test management platform used by educators and administrators, manages student user enrollment, supports monitoring activity.

The Board members were given laptops, Chromebooks or Macs to take a practice test and experience what it is like for students to test. There was a lively discussion during and after the practice test.

Professional Practices Commission (PPC) Recommendations

PPC
4:51:30

Scott Gordon, KSDE General Counsel, and Ricardo Sanchez, PPC Chair, presented the recommendations of the Professional Practices Commission for:
1) deny/revoke,
2) censure,
3) issue the license.

a. Mr. Zeck moved that the Kansas State Board of Education deny the pending application in 24-PPC-33 and 25-PPC-09 and revoke the following licenses: 25-PPC-09, 25-PPC-10, 25-PPC-02, 25-PPC-05, 25-PPC-07, and 25-PPC-08. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

b. Mr. Hershberger moved that the Kansas State Board of Education adopt the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the Professional Practices Commission in 24-PPC-17 and censure the Licensee as prescribed. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0-1, with Mrs. Potter present not voting.

c. Mrs. Haas moved that the Kansas State Board of Education adopt the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the Professional Practices Commission and issue the licenses in 24-PPC-30 and 25-PPC-01 as prescribed. Mr. Zeck seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Superintendent of the Year 2025

Dr. Nugent
5:25:00

Denise Kahler, Director, Communications, introduced Dr. Renee Nugent, Atchison, the Kansas State Superintendent of the Year. This was the speech Dr. Nugent gave:

"Good afternoon and thank you for this incredible honor. Being named Kansas

Superintendent of the Year is truly a reflection of the amazing educators, students, and community I serve in USD 409 Atchison Public Schools. I'm grateful to be here representing the work we do together to ensure every student thrives.

My journey has taken me from middle school English teacher in Nebraska, an educational diagnostician in Texas, and a counselor, administrator, and now superintendent in Kansas. Through every role, I've believed in the power of strong mentorship, the value of lifelong growth and learning, and the impact of visible leadership—ensuring that both students and educators feel supported, empowered, and inspired to reach their full potential.

In Atchison, we believe every student deserves to see themselves as capable and empowered. Our district is working toward the goal of implementing Visible Learning district-wide—an approach that helps students become aware of their own learning process, set goals, and take ownership of their progress. By fostering assessment-capable learners, we ensure that students don't just receive an education—they actively engage in it, building the skills and confidence to succeed beyond the classroom. We've also united our district through a mascot change, showing our students the importance of aligning tradition with progress. Communication and collaboration are central to our success—whether through Superintendent Shoutouts, community forums, or student-focused strategic planning. And our educators continue to innovate, with our high school earning state STAR recognition for individual plans of study and our classrooms embracing co-teaching for stronger student outcomes.

Personally, I witness all of this as I commit to visiting classrooms regularly–as of today I have visited just under 400 classrooms in my district.

I am proud to serve in a district and a state that values public education and works tirelessly to elevate student success. The work happening in Atchison is not unique to us—it's a testament to the dedication of educators across Kansas.

I look forward to continuing to collaborate, learn, and advocate for our students alongside all of you. Thank you again for this honor and for the work you do every day for Kansas kids."

The Board gave her a standing ovation.

Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA) Update

KESA
5:47:26

Dr. Jay Scott, Director, Accreditation and Design began by reminding the Board that accreditation is one of their main responsibilities. Dr. Scott started with a high level overview of KESA. There are three accreditation determination areas: school improvement, student outcomes and compliance. Each accreditation area has a set

standard to meet, a measure to evaluate a school system's performance and supports to assist systems in meeting the standards. The *fundamentals* for school improvement are structured literacy, standards alignment, balanced assessment, and quality instruction. There are six structures that reinforce the lead indicators and sustain the fundamentals within the system: resource allocation, educator evaluation, professional learning, professional collaboration, tiered system of supports, and family, community/business partnerships.

Dr. Scott went over the details of KESA particularly for the new Board members, as the others have been part of the development of the accreditation process for several years. The schools, which work in systems, engage in the KESA collaboration process, which includes the development and implementation of their action plan. Then KSDE staff analyze the information, present it to the Accreditation Review Council (ARC). The ARC reviews compliance issues, information, and data from KSDE and makes a recommendation to the State Board. The State Board determines accreditation.

This accreditation process embraces supporting neighbors and peers. There are seven groupings for developing regions/cohorts which support each other: West, Central, East, Urban, Suburban, Special Purpose and Private. A school system chooses an action plan, focused on a fundamental, then chooses one or two structures/lead indicators to improve the fundamental. There must be measures of progress per structure. There are three questions: Why, Current Data/Evidence and What's Next?'

There was discussion, questions, and answers.

Items taken off the Consent Agenda

Items from Consent 6:32:00

Chair Hopkins asked the Board to turn their attention to the three items that were removed from the consent agenda. She asked for a motion on *k. Act on request to contract with the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDS) for summer food service program food safety inspections.*

Motion on k.

Item K. (vote only) Mrs. Dombrosky moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve Item k to act on request to contract with Kansas Department of Agriculture for summer food service program, food safety inspections. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-2-1, with Mr. Zeck and Mrs. Dombrosky voting no, and Mrs. O'Brien present not voting.

Chair Hopkins invited KSDE staff members Amanda Peterson, Director, Early Childhood Services and Brian Dempsey, Asst. Director Special Education, to come forward to the podium. Mrs. Peterson gave a short presentation on her consent item *l. Act on recommendations for funding the Kansas Preschool Pilot grants for 2025-2026.*

Item L. (discussion and vote)

Mrs. Potter expressed her concern about the government run Pre-k programs.

Mrs. Potter moved to table this item until the March meeting. Mrs. Dombrosky seconded the motion.

A point of order was made by Mrs. Haas, who referenced Kansas State Board of Education official policy that if a member has a concern about an item on the consent agenda there are a variety of ways to address concerns prior to the meeting. Mrs. Haas stated that Mrs. Potter has asked her questions about the item and received answers, and she is not sure why the motion to table is being made at this time. Mrs. Potter explained that there is a snowstorm coming and there is no time to have a conversation about the item. Mrs. Potter is asking to table the item because of the emergency timetable due to weather. There was further discussion.

Motion on Tabling 6:51:10

Back on the motion, Mrs. Potter moved to table this item until the March meeting, Mrs. Dombrosky seconded the motion. **Motion failed 4-6 with Mrs. Haas, Mrs. Arnold, Mr. Porter, Mrs. New, Mrs. O'Brien and Mrs. Hopkins voting no.**

Motion on l. PreK Grants 6:51:45

Mrs. Haas moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve item l, to act on recommendations for funding Kansas Preschool Pilot grants for 2025-2026. Dr. New seconded the motion. **Motion passed 6-3-1, with Mrs. Dombrosky, Mrs. Potter and Mr. Zeck voting no, Mrs. O'Brien present not voting.**

Item m. 6:56:45

Mr. Dempsey explained his consent item *m. Act to initiate the contract bid process for investigation of special education formal complaints*. He noted that in both federal and state statute, and in the department regulations, every formal complaint in Special Education must be investigated within 30 days. The number of formal complaints has risen over the past 5 years, from 33 in 2021 and 115 in 2024, and already in 2025 there have been 57 (in two months). More investigators are needed. Only complaints assigned are paid for. The issue is the capacity, and whether these complaints can be investigated within the 30 day deadline. These are all federal funds. This saves school districts a great deal of legal fees. Ideally these issues are mediated, or non-substantiated (50%). The uptick in complaints is a national trend, often connected with staffing problems.

Motion on m. Special Ed Complaints 7:04:20

Item M. (vote/discussion) Mr. Hershberger moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve item m, to initiate the contract bid process for investigation of special education formal complaints. Mrs. O'Brien seconded the motion. **Motion carried 9-0-1 with Mrs. Dombrosky present not voting.**

Act to approve the current Request for Proposal (RFP) for Board Attorney

Dr. John Hess began by specifying that K.S.A. 72-254 requires the State Board to hire an attorney to represent the Board in all matters of litigation.

72-254. Same; attorney; appointment and duties. The state board may sue in its own name, may be sued and may defend any action brought against it or against any of its members who are sued in situations relating to and arising out of the performance of their official duties. The state board shall appoint an attorney to represent it or any of its members in all litigations. The attorney for the state board shall attend all meetings of the state board and render such legal services as are directed by the state board or the commissioner.
History: L. 1968, ch. 269, § 20; L. 1975, ch. 381, § 1; April 29.

In October 2024, the State Board approved (on the consent agenda) the request for proposal (RFP) which started the process of working towards a new contract for a board attorney. The Chair and Vice Chair were appointed to serve on the negotiating committee. The contract for a Board Attorney that was requested was/is for one year, with the possibility of an annual renewal, to be voted on up to four times, up to five years total. This has been the pattern for several decades. The requirements for the Board Attorney were sent to the procurement office and at least three Kansas education law firms were directly contacted, and the position was advertised publicly. When the deadline for applicants had passed, Dr. Hess, Director, Fiscal Services and Operations, met with the Chair and the Vice Chair to share the results of the job search. This happened in December of 2024, and the Chair at the time was Melanie Haas and the Vice Chair was Jim Porter. They met with Dr. Hess and signed non-disclosure agreements prior to seeing the results.

As the Board leadership changed in 2025, this process was repeated with Chair Hopkins and Vice Chair Zeck, again signing non-disclosure documents and meeting with Dr. Hess. The candidate/s for the job were not disclosed to the entire Board, but four members of the Board are presently aware of the outcome of the Request for Proposal.

There was a discussion with the Board members.

Dr. Hess explained that before he can send the proposal back to the State Office of Procurement the Board must give its approval to move forward the process. Because the RFP is still ongoing, he is not able to reveal the candidate/s specifically but can explain that there was only one bid. The bid does meet all of the specifications. He needs a vote authorizing him to approve the request for proposal, back to Procurement.

There was a conversation with the Board about what would happen if this bid were rejected. Dr. Hess stated that in his view, because of how long the process takes, there

would be a likelihood that the Board would find itself with a lapse in legal representation. The present contract is over at the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2025).

Motion On RFP Board Attorney 7:15:00

Mrs. Dombrosky moved that the Kansas State Board of Education "continue the process" by moving forward with the one received bidder and signing the contract with that bidder. Mrs. Potter seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Chair Report 7:15:40

Chair Report

Chair Hopkins announced the 2025-2026 committee assignments for the board members:

Danny Zeck, District 1, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaison
Kansas Advisory Committee for Career and Technical Education (KACCTE)
Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE)
Coordinating Council (inactive)

Melanie Haas, District 2
Board Policy Committee, Chair
Education Commission of the States
Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)
Kansas Volunteer Commission

Michelle Dombrosky, District 3
Kansas State High School Activities Association Board of Directors
Liaison to Kansas School for the Deaf
Kansas School for the Deaf/Kansas National Education Association Bargaining Team

Connie O'Brien, District 4
Attorney General Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC)
Kansas Advisory Committee on Indigenous Education (KACIE)
Liaison to the Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB)

Cathy Hopkins, District 5, Chair
Legislative Liaison
Professional Standards Board Liaison
Teacher Vacancy and Advisory Supply Committee
Governor's Education Council (inactive)
Coordinating Council (inactive)

Dr. Beryl New, District 6
Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force
Kansas Foundation for Excellence/Kansas Teacher of the Year
Kansas Master Teacher Award Selection Committee

Dennis Hershberger, District 7
Board Policy Committee
Agriculture in the Classroom
Kansas Prescription Drug a& Opioid Advisory Committee

Betty Arnold, District 8
Policy Committee
Charter and Virtual Education Advisory Committee
School Mental Health Advisory Committee
NASBE Whole Child Study Group

Jim Porter, District 9
Kansas State High School Activities Association Board of Directors
Kansas State High School Activities Association Executive Board of Directors
Kansas State Legislature Education Funding Task Force
Capital Improvement (Bond & Interest) State Aid Review Committee

Debby Potter, District 10
Teacher Vacancy and Supply Committee
Kansas Council for Economic Education (KCEE)

Chair Hopkins announced that next month the Board will be meeting for one day, Tuesday March 11, in Topeka and then go on Wednesday, March 12, to visit the Kansas School for the Deaf in Olathe and the Kansas State School for the Blind in Kansas City, Kansas.

She mentioned that in future Vice Chair Zeck would very much like to have a section of the meeting, near the end, when Board members will have an opportunity to comment on any topic they wish. This will not be a discussion time, or future requests for presentation, but a time to express thoughts.

Reports
7:22:00

Committee Reports

Dr. New shared her positive experience on the screening committee for the Master Teachers. There were 27 applicants, nominated by their school principals. She learned a great deal and is proud of so many excellent teachers.

Chair Hopkins sat in for Vice Chair Zeck on the CTE committee. She spoke about the welding training becoming a stand-alone class.

Mr. Porter spoke about his service on the Kansas Legislature Task Force on School Finance. The task force will meet monthly for the next two years.

Chair Hopkins mentioned that the latest ESSER meeting took place, and plans are in motion to have Dean Zajic, Assistant Director, Special Education, present the final ESSER funds report to the Board.

Board Travel

Board Travel Motion 7:25:00

Mrs. Haas moved to approve the Board travel requests of February 2025. Mrs. Dombrosky seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Future Requests

Requests

Mrs. Dombrosky: opt/In, opt out, assessments K.S.A. 72-3218
Mrs. Arnold: The Accuracy of Data
Representative Huebert: Computer Science
Mrs. Potter: discussion on opt in/opt out, connecting the State Board with local boards, addressing behaviors in the classroom, and the possibility of having open forums.

Board Attorney Report

Mr. Ferguson expressed that he is happy to speak to anyone on the board, and more than willing to answer any questions.

The Wednesday meeting of the State Board was cancelled because of severe weather that was forecast.

Chair Hopkins adjourned the meeting at 5:27 p.m. until March 11th at 10 a.m.

_____ _____

Chair Cathy Hopkins Board Secretary Deborah Bremer